

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ADDIS 06571 260624Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DODE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /045 W
-----114195 260849Z /21

R 251523Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6381
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 6571

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, PROP, ET, GE
SUBJECT: FIRST GDR TRADE EXHIBITION IN ETHIOPIA OPENS

SUMMARY: INDICATIVE OF ITS GROWING PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA,
THE GDR ON NOV. 20 OPENED A WELL ORGANIZED INDUSTRIAL
AND TRADE EXHIBITION IN ADDIS ABABA. ADDING TO THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OCCASION WAS THE PRESENCE OF THE
DEPUTY CHARIMAN OF THE GDR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, WOLFGANG
RAUCHFUSS. END SUMMARY.

1. MONOPOLIZING THE ETHIOPIAN NEWS MEDIA FOR THE PAST
SEVERAL DAYS HAS BEEN THE VISIT OF A HIGH LEVEL GDR
DELEGATION LED BY WOLFGANG RAUCHFUSS, IN CONNECTION
WITH THE OPENING ON NOVEMBER 20 OF THE FIRST GDR
INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN ETHIOPIA.
WHILE THE TWO EVENTS HAVE BEEN INTERTWINED, THE COMMERCIAL
ASPECTS HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY AN EMPHASIS ON THE
GROWING POLITICAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. ON NOVEMBER 21 THE DELEGATION HEADED BY RAUCHFUSS
WAS RECEIVED BY PMAC CHAIRMAN MENGISTU, WHO THANKED
THE DELEGATION FOR GDR SUPPORT OF THE ETHIOPIAN
REVOLUTION AND SAID THAT THE "ETHIOPIAN MASSES HAVE
MUCH TO LEARN FROM PEOPLE OF THE GDR AS REGARDS PROGRESS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ADDIS 06571 260624Z

AND PROSPERITY". MENGISTU IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING
THAT THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED JOINT GDR-ETHIOPIAN
ECONOMIC COMMISSION "...HAS LAID A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR
SOCIALIST ETHIOPIA'S EFFORTS TO EXTRICATE THE COUNTRY
FROM VESTIGES OF THE FEUDAL SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION
RELATIONS (SIC) AND AT THE SAME TIME DRAWING MUTUAL
BENEFITS FROM THE GDR'S EXPERIENCE IN SOCIALIST

CONSTRUCTION, AS THE GDR IS ONE OF THE INDUSTRIALLY
ADVANCED COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD".

3. DURING HIS WHIRLWIND HIGHLY PUBLICIZED FIVE-DAY
VISIT, RAUCHFUSS WAS FETED AND RECEIVED BY A SERIES
OF OTHER HIGH LEVEL EPMG OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
FONMIN FELLEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS, MINCOMM&TOUR ASHAGRE
YIGLETU, AND MSGT. LEGESSE ASFAW, PMAC MEMBER IN
CHARGE OF MIL/POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

4. EPMG SQUEEZED RAUCHFUSS' VISIT AND THE INDUSTRIAL
AND TRADE EXHIBITION FOR ALL THE PROPAGANDA VALUE
POSSIBLE. IN SO DOING IT PLAYED UP THE BANKRUPTCY
OF THE SOMALI PRETENSIONS TO SOCIALISM AND LEFT NO
DOUBT THAT "PROGRESSIVE SOCIALIST PEOPLES" STRONGLY
SUPPORTED THE ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST REVOLUTION.

5. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GDR EMBASSY COMMERCIAL
OFFICIALS, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT EXHIBITION (22 TRADE
ENTERPRISES IN AN AREA OF SOME 4000 SQUARE METERS)
WAS RESULT OF FIRST MEETING OF ETHIOPIAN-GDR JOINT
ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND WAS PUT TOGETHER IN THREE
WEEKS OF FLURRIED ACTIVITY. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM
ENCOUNTERED WAS TRANSPORTING THE HEAVY AGRICULTURAL
AND OTHER EQUIPMENT FROM ASSAB TO ADDIS ABABA.
MEMBERS OF THE GDR EMBASSY AND THE 100 MEMBER
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ADDIS 06571 260624Z

EXHIBITION STAFF ACTUALLY HELPED TO DRIVE MANY OF
THE VEHICLES ON EXHIBITION OVER THIS ROUTE. THE
HEAVY EQUIPMENT ON DISPLAY WAS TRANSPORTED ON EPMG-PROVIDED
LOWBOYS ON LOAN FROM THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY. SMALLER, LESS
HEAVY ITEMS WERE FLOWN IN BY GDR CHARTER AIRCRAFT.
ALTHOUGH NO CUSTOMS DUTY WAS PAID ON THE DISPLAYED
ITEMS (AFTER A HASSLE WITH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN ASSAB),
THEY WILL ALL BE DISPOSED OF IN COUNTRY AFTER THE EXHI-
BITION CLOSES. FAIR IS A PROFESSIONAL EFFORT AND DURING
FIRST DAYS HAS ATTRACTED GOOD CROWDS. NEVERTHELESS, ANY
SALES AGREEMENTS CONCLUDED ARE LIKELY TO BE RESTRICTED TO EPMG
AGENCIES.
MATHERON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE FAIRS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ADDIS06571
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770438-1099
Format: TEL
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771122/aaaaasbc.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 546c3712-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 462224
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST GDR TRADE EXHIBITION IN ETHIOPIA OPENS SUMMARY: INDICATIVE OF ITS GROWING PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA, THE GDR ON NOV. 20 OPENED A WELL ORGANIZED IND USTR
TAGS: ETRD, PROP, ET, GC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbcr//SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/546c3712-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009